Hike in Outlay for Rural Development

941. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a hike in the budght allocation for rural development in the Eighth Five Year Plan from Rs. 10,955.96 crores in the Seventh Plan to Rs. 30,000 crores (i.e. hike of nearly 280 percent);

(b) if so, the steps Government so far taken to ensure that the resources made available are utilised to fulfil the objectives laid down in the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(c) what progress has so far been made to achieve the objectives for ushering in economic progress and social transformation in the rural areas; and

(d) whether there has been any resource crunch which stood on the way for giving due priority to this sector; if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL) (a) to (c) The budget allocation for rural development in the 8th Five Year Plan has been stepped up from Rs. 10955.96 crores during the 7th Plan to Rs. 30,000 crores. All efforts are made to fullfil the objectives laid down in the 8th Plan though implementation of various poverty alleviation and other programmes in the States. A Statement showing the physical targets and achievements under major programmes during the last three years of the 8th Plan is given in Annexure [*See Appendix* 176, *Annexure No.* 39]

(d) In the context of overall resources crunch in the economy, due priority has been given to the rural development sector. The Planning Commission has allocated Rs. 8692 crores as central outlay during 1996-97 for the programmes of the Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment.

Export of Zinc by Hindustan Zinc Limited

942. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL) has been planning to increase export of Zinc;

(b) if so, the total production and export of zinc by HZL during the last three years;

(c) the total tonnes of zinc proposed to be exported in 1995-96;

(d) the amount of foreign exchange expected to be earned by exporting zinc during 1995-96; and

(e) the target of export to be achieved by 1996-97 financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The total production and export of zinc by Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL) during the last three years are shown in the following table:—

(Figures in Tonnes)

	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
Production	106564	119879	119807
Export	1155	3058	5093

(c) Under present market environment, export of zinc metal is not economically viable, During 1995-96 the Company has not exported zinc.

(d) and (e) In view of (c) above, questions do not arise.

Retention of services of Board Level Officers

943. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government have not been retaining the services of board level officers of different PSUs under its administrative jurisdiction beyond the age of 58 years despite their involvement in different ongoings of the projects;

(b) whether Government would review the position and issue orders for retention of their services in the larger interest of the State;

(c) the number of Board level officers likely to retire during the year 1996 from different PSUs under his Ministry;

(d) whether orders of extension shall be issued accordingly; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) (a) and (b) Generally, services of Board Level officers are not retained beyond the age of superannuation except in rare and exceptional cases.

(c) to (e) Seven (7) Board Level Officers are to retire during 1996 from different PSUs under the Ministry of Steel. Interest of the companies would determine whether extension would be granted to any of them.

Achievements in Organic Farming

944. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the achievements of the country during the last three years in the area of organic farming;

(b) the steps being taken to encourage organic farming;

(c) the cost effectiveness of organic farming vis-a-vis the normal one; and

(d) whether organic farming is getting more popular?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN): (a) and (b) Keeping in view the increasing price of agro-chemicals, their effects on eco-system and beneficial effects of organic manures on soil and crop production, the Government is encouraging integrated nutrients and pest management by implementing the following schemes: (i) Scheme on balanced and integrated use of fertilisers (ii) Development of fertiliser use in low consumption areas (iii) National Project on Development and use of bio-fertilisers (iv) Integrated pest management implementation programme.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has promoted the organic approach to farming through several All India coordinated Research Projects, such as, on (i) Biological Nitrogen Fixation (ii) Microbial Decomposition of crop Residues & City Wastes (iii) Soil Test Crop Response (iv) Project Directorate of Cropping System Research and (v) Long Term Fertiliser Experiments, etc.

(c) Conjuctive use of organics and chemical fertiliser is more cost effective in improving crop productivity than either of them alone.

(d) Importance or organic approach to farming is increasingly being realised.

रूग्ण इस्पात संयंत्र

945. **श्री अजीत जोगी:**
श्री एस॰एस॰ सुरजेवाला:

क्या इस्पात मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या देश में बहुत बड़ी संख्या में इस्पात संयंत्र रूग्ण हो रहे है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(ग) सरकार इन एककों को अर्थ-क्षम बनाने के लिए क्या कदम उठाने का विचार रखती है?

इस्पात मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सन्तोष मोहन देव): (क) उपलब्ध सूचना के अनुसार औद्योगिक एवं वित्तीय पुनर्निर्माण बोर्ड द्वारा 183 विद्युत चाप भट्टी इकाइयों में से 43 इकाइयों को रूग्ण घोषित किया गया है। समय-समय पर यथा संशोधित रूग्ण औद्योगिक कम्पनी (विशेष उपबंध) अधिनियम, 1985 (एस.आई.सी.ए.) में निहित विभिन्न प्रावधानों के तहत् इन रूग्ण संयंत्रों में 23 संयंत्रों के समापन की सिफारिश की गई है।

(ख) इस समय विद्युत चाप भट्टी क्षेत्र में छोटे आकार की ऐसी भट्टियों की बहुतायात है जो प्रौद्योगिकियों के विकास के साथ-साथ चलने में सक्षम नहीं हैं। इसके अतिरिक्त स्क्रैप के मूल्य में वृद्धि तथा अन्य घटकों जैसे उच्च विद्युत टैरिफ श्रम और वित्तीय एवं प्रबंधकीय समस्याओं से भी इस क्षेत्र के निष्पादन पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ा है।

(ग) रूग्ण औद्योगिक कम्पनी की जांच बी.आई.एफ.आर. द्वारा की जाती है और यदि पुनरूद्धार के लिए उपयुक्त पाया जाता है तो संबंधित राज्य सरकारों बैंकों, वित्तीय संस्थानों आदि के परामर्श से कार्यान्वयन करने हेतु विशिष्ट पैकेज की सिफारिश की जाती है।

Allocation of funds for rural development

946. SHRI THENNALA BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state: